Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident Response

Unified Command Data Summary

XXXX E. 52nd Street, Maywood CA

DATE

Overview of Fire

This document is provided to owners and residents of properties evacuated following the June 14, 2016 fire at the metal recycling facility located at 3570 Fruitland Ave. The fire produced fumes, smoke, and particulates (very tiny pieces of material) that were released into the air and settled on the ground of nearby properties as fire ash.

The safety of your home and property (indoors and outdoors) has been assessed by experts. This document provides information about the assessment and cleaning that took place inside and outside your home.

The Unified Command (UC) for the Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident led the response operations and assessment of hazardous materials in the aftermath of the fire. The Unified Command is comprised of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD).

Sampling at the Facility

The UC took soil samples to ensure that the soil did not contain hazardous levels of materials from the fire. The UC also took air samples during and after the fire to evaluate the impact to air quality and determine if air quality had stabilized.

We checked the soil – No visible ash was seen on the south side of E. 52nd St., so it was safe for residents to go home. Additionally, multiple samples were taken from the yards along the south side of E. 52nd St. Our sampling results showed there was no ash or high levels of metals in the soil.

We checked the air – The air was monitored upwind and downwind of the facility while the fire was burning, and for several days after the fire was out. Air samples were also taken to ensure air was safe to breath. Immediately following the incident, air monitors were placed near site. Air sampling test results showed air quality worsened shortly after the incident, but that it had improved a couple days later, by June 16.

(Insert tables for soil samples and air samples here, or show air sampling graphs that have peak then return to low levels)

Sampling Residential Properties

Before work was done in or around my residence

Prior to entering your property to conduct any assessments or sampling, members of the Unified Command team obtained access agreements from the resident or property owner and explained the process of collecting samples. ***Attachment 1: Outdoor Checklist Signatures*** has the signatures and dates that the agreement and various assessments were conducted.

What was tested in or around my residence?

Air and dust in your home were tested and analyzed at a laboratory using a standard analysis protocol for 22 different metals: aluminum, antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, calcium, chromium, cobalt, copper, iron, lead, magnesium, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, potassium, selenium, sodium, thallium, vanadium, and zinc. Most were below any level that would be a health concern. The metals found in the ash at the site that were considered a potential health concern are: chromium, copper, magnesium, and zinc.

What tests were conducted on my property?

Sampling was conducted on every parcel and in every home on the north side of E. 52nd Street. Soil samples were collected to determine whether contamination from the facility reached the residences. ***See Attachment 2: Soil Sampling Results*** for the results from your home.

Each outdoor space was evaluated for the presence of ash. To protect your home from dust, openings—such as windows and doors— were sealed with plastic. The outside of your property was cleaned to remove any visible ash. Industrial, high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter vacuum trucks removed visible ash from roofs, outside walls, concrete areas, patios and other hard surfaces, lawns, plants, and exposed soil. Smaller items like outdoor furniture, tools, toys, and bikes were rinsed with clean water in a plastic enclosure to remove any ash.

Indoor air was tested in each home by placing sampling devices inside the home. Fans were used to stir up any dust and ash that could be present – to get the maximum possible reading – and material in the air was collected onto filters placed at two different heights: breathing zones for children and adults. The samples were analyzed, and your results along with the screening level are provided in ***Attachment 3: Indoor Air Sampling Results***

For homes that had indoor air tests **below** the screening level established by UC, verification testing was done to confirm that site contaminants from the fire did not impact the interior of the residence. Dust from the floors was sampled in five places in your home. Small children spend much of their time on the floor playing, so anything in the carpets can get on their hands or toys, and into their mouths. The locations were chosen to be in high traffic areas or near open windows or doors, in order to have the best chance to find any ash that could have entered the home. A micro-vacuum was used to collect dust onto a filter that was analyzed for the same group of metals. The results of the dust sampling are in ***Appendix 4: Dust Sampling Results***

For homes that with initial indoor air sample results that were **above** the indoor screening level, UC determined that a thorough, professional cleaning was required. Prior to cleaning, the company conducted an inventory to ensure no items were left unaddressed. The following areas were cleaned by professionals:

- Structural: carpets and floors; ceilings and walls; countertops; ductwork and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Contents: art; bedding; clothing *(taken offsite for professional cleaning)*; draperies and window coverings; electronics; furniture; kitchen items; upholstery; wood furniture; and other items.

Following indoor cleaning, air and dust were again tested. Those results are also included in Attachments 3 and 4. For those homes that had professional indoor cleaning, ***Attachment 7: ServePro Report*** has a summary of the cleanup actions.

Re-occupancy

Unified Command used the sampling results from indoor air and dust samples, and compared the results from each residence to the action levels that were developed for this cleanup. The action levels for each of the 4 metals, chromium, copper, magnesium, and zinc, are **very conservative**, and are protective of health for all residents, including children. For the outdoor areas, a visual inspection was conducted by the UC Ash Cleanup and Assessment Teams (ACAT). Once UC was satisfied that both the indoor and

outdoor areas for each residence met the established cleanup requirements, a re-occupancy recommendation was made.

Once UC made the recommendation that a residence was suitable for re-occupancy, the information recommendation was sent to the Health Officer for the LA County Department of Public Health. The final decision authority for re-occupancy rests with the Health Officer. Once the Health Officer determined that a residence was approved for re-occupancy, the residents were notified. See ***Attachment 5: Health Officer Re-occupancy Determination*** *(is this an actual form?)*

Re-Entry process

Each household was notified once the Health Officer determined that their residence was approved for re-occupancy. A representative from the Community Relations Team set up an appointment to provide a walk-through for each residence, explaining what was done on the property (outdoor cleaning, and if any indoor cleaning was done), and the preliminary results of the indoor air sampling. ***Attachment 6: Photo Documentation*** has the photos taken of the outside areas as well as the interior for the properties that were cleaned.

Contact Information

As the cleanup activities continue on and around where the fire took place, every effort will be made to ensure that dust and ash do not re-enter your neighborhood. Occasionally, you may notice burned metal and other fire debris odors. However, there should be no long-term health impacts from this nuisance.

LA County Public Health will be available to answer any further questions you may have. They can be reached at 213.738.3220. For questions about the facility cleanup, you can speak with EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, Carlin Hafiz, at 213.244.1814 or hafiz.carlin@epa.gov. (Spanish version contact for EPA- Para preguntas acerca de la limpieza de la instalacion en si, puede hablar con el Coordinador de Participacion Comunitaria de la EPA, Alejandro Diaz, al 415.972.3242 o diaz.alejandro@epa.gov) *(Do we need to wait and figure out who will be doing the cleanup before we put EPA as the POC?)*

Attachment 1: Outdoor Checklist Signatures

Attachment 2: Soil Sampling Results

Attachment 3: Indoor Air Sampling Results

Attachment 4: Dust Sampling Results

Attachment 5: Health Officer Re-occupancy Determination

Attachment 6: Photo Documentation

Attachment 7: ServePro Report